



## Early Journal Content on JSTOR, Free to Anyone in the World

This article is one of nearly 500,000 scholarly works digitized and made freely available to everyone in the world by JSTOR.

Known as the Early Journal Content, this set of works include research articles, news, letters, and other writings published in more than 200 of the oldest leading academic journals. The works date from the mid-seventeenth to the early twentieth centuries.

We encourage people to read and share the Early Journal Content openly and to tell others that this resource exists. People may post this content online or redistribute in any way for non-commercial purposes.

Read more about Early Journal Content at <http://about.jstor.org/participate-jstor/individuals/early-journal-content>.

JSTOR is a digital library of academic journals, books, and primary source objects. JSTOR helps people discover, use, and build upon a wide range of content through a powerful research and teaching platform, and preserves this content for future generations. JSTOR is part of ITHAKA, a not-for-profit organization that also includes Ithaka S+R and Portico. For more information about JSTOR, please contact [support@jstor.org](mailto:support@jstor.org).

## ABLATIVE OF THE EFFICIENT

BY R. B. STEELE

The third sentence of Caesar's *Gallic War* is: *Gallos ab Aquitanis Garumna flumen, a Belgis Matrona et Sequana dividit*. A little farther on we find: *eorum una pars . . . . continetur Garumna flumine, Oceano, finibus Belgarum*. Grammatically equivalent to this is a statement in chapter 2: *undique loci natura Helvetii continentur; una ex parte flumine Rheno . . . .; altera ex parte monte Iura altissimo . . . .; tertia lacu Lemanno et flumine Rhodano*. For the ablative in these two passages there is found in the school editions an explanation as ablative of means. There is also in the second sentence of the second chapter the following: *regni cupiditate inductus, coniurationem fecit*. Here the ablative is defined as ablative of cause, or a little more specifically as ablative of the moving cause. This and similar examples are classified as causal also in the *Lex. Caes.* of Menge and Preuss. In contrast with this explanation, Heynacher, *Sprachgebrauch Caesars im Bellum Gallicum*, page 18, gives both as examples of the ablative *rei efficientis* with passive verbs. We shall classify these and similar examples as "ablative of the efficient" which, on the one hand, restricts the application of the term "cause," and, on the other, calls for a closer definition of the word "means."

Whether the noun in the ablative is concrete or abstract, as in the examples quoted, they are alike in this that one of either class can be changed to the nominative with the verb in the active voice. In this respect they stand in the same relation to the verb as does the ablative of personal agent, giving us the "by which" instead of the "by whom" the act was performed. Considering only the accomplishment of the act, the difference is merely grammatical. *Caesar omnes vicit* is logically equal to *omnes a Caesare victi sunt*. Likewise *omnia vicit Amor*, or *amor*, is equal to *omnia ab Amore*, or *amore*, *victa sunt*, and it makes no difference whether we take as illustration *Amor* (Vergil *Ecl.* x. 69) or *labor* (*idem*, *Georg.* i. 145). The equivalence of the nouns in the nominative shows the equivalence in the ablative, and both might be classed under the head "agent."

But there are two things that make this term less clear than the term "efficient." In the first place, the connotation of the term "agent" is prevailingly personal, and, secondly, it is generally used to indicate a subordinate actor instead of the principal, the English meaning having shifted from the meaning in Latin. The explanation as moving or efficient cause would answer, but "efficient" is more direct, while the word "cause" by itself does not indicate active participation in the result accomplished.

The ablative of means should give an intermediary between two other objects which are either named or implied. As illustration of this we shall take Caesar *Bell. Gall.* v.43.3: *hostes . . . scalis vallum ascendere coeperunt*. The ladders are objective elements, seized by the soldiers, used in the ascent, and left behind. Compare with this the lines

Northumberland, thou ladder wherewithal  
The mounting Bolingbroke ascends my throne.

The use of the term "efficient" will call for a clear differentiation from the instrumental ablative. There is a large class of words which can be regarded as the extension of the original—the hand of man and his finger nails. Between the latter and the highly specialized instruments with which modern surgeons perform their operations there is a long line of development, but the germ of the later development was in the original. We may say *pugna pugnis pugnat*, "the fist-fight was fist-fought with fists," and *pugnis* was the prototype of the ram with which men battered down the walls of cities. There are other associative elements which are as clearly expressed in Latin as in English, as "I saw it with my own eyes," "I handled it with my own hands." But extra-corporeal elements are also seized on, and from the use made of them they become the true means by use of which the actor attains the accomplished result.

With passive verbs the ablative of the efficient expresses either material or mental elements. Words indicating natural boundaries and natural elements occur much less frequently than do those indicating abstract qualities. The *Chorographia* of Pomponius Mela has some noticeable examples of the former class: i.1.8, *hoc mari et duobus inclitis amnibus, Tanai atque Nilo, in tres partes universa dividitur*; i.6.32, *saxa adtrita . . . fluctibus*; i.1.5, *ambitur*

*omnis Oceano.* Compare the opening statement in the *Germania* of Tacitus: *Germania omnis a Gallis Raetisque et Pannoniis Rheno et Danuvio fluminibus, a Sarmatis Dacisque mutuo metu aut montibus separatur: cetera Oceanus ambit.*

References are frequently made, especially in similes, by the poets, particularly Ovid, to water, wave, and wind. These, because of their movements, can be used in expressing activities parallel to those of persons. Let a few illustrations suffice.

Ovid *Amores* ii.4.8:

auferor ut rapida concita puppis aqua;

*Ars Am.* i.476:

molli saxa cavantur aqua;

*ibid.* i.528:

brevis aequoreis Dia feritur aqua;

*Rem. Am.* 692:

lapis aequoreis undique pulsus aquis;

*Heroides* x.26:

scopulus raucis pendet adesus aquis.

Compare with this the words of Propertius, iii.20.15:

teritur robigine mucro  
ferreus et parvo saepe liquore silex,

written evidently with an eye to Vergil *Georg.* i.495:

exesa inveniet scabra robigine pila.

Other terms applied to water are also used.

*Amores* ii.17.4:

fluctu pulsa Cythera;

*Heroides* vii.89:

fluctibus eiectum tuta statione recepi.

Notice also some combinations with the winds,

*Heroides* ii.35:

per mare, quod totum ventis agitur et undis.

Vergil *Aen.* i.333:

erramus vento huc vastis et fluctibus acti.

There is a larger number of references to the winds, either singly or in pairs: Ovid *Rem. Am.* 807 gives, with variations, both active and passive:

nutritur vento, vento restinguitur ignis,  
lenis alit flammās, grandior aura necat;

*Amores* ii. 10. 9:

errant ut ventis discordibus acta phaselos.

Specific winds are sometimes mentioned, as in Vergil *Georg.* ii. 334:

aut actum caelo magnis aquilonibus imbrem;

and *ibid.* 1. 459:

frustra terreberē nimbis  
et claro silvas cernes aquilone moveri.

Ovid *Heroides* x. 139:

impulsae segetes aquilonibus;

*ibid.* xiv. 39:

ut leni Zephyro graciles vibrantur aristae.

However, Notus is the favorite, either alone or in connection with some other wind.

Ovid *Heroides* x. 30:

carbasa tenta Noto;

Propertius ii. 9. 33-34:

non sic incerto mutantur flamine Syrtes,  
nec folia hiberno tam tremefacta Noto.

Compare the like simile in Ovid *Heroides* xi. 75-76:

ut mare fit tremulum, tenui cum stringitur aura,  
ut quatitur tepido fraxina virga Noto;

and *Amores* i. 7. 55-56:

ut leni Zephyro gracilis vibrantur harundo,  
summave cum tepido stringitur unda Noto.

Vergil says of the Phoenicians, *Aen.* i. 442:

iactati undis et turbine Poeni,

but of the Trojan ships, *ibid.* i. 383:

vix septem convulsae undis euroque supersunt,

although he makes Dido say, *ibid.* i. 575:

atque utinam rex ipse noto compulsus eodem  
adforet Aeneas.

The tides and gusts of passion, having equivalent effects, are expressed in the same way, and *amore* is freely used, as in Ovid *Amores* iii. 7. 80, *alio lassus amore*; *ibid.* iii. 10. 29, *victus amore pudor*. It occurs also occasionally in the *Eclogues* of Vergil as well as in the *Aeneid*, e.g., i. 675:

sed magno Aeneae mecum teneatur amore.

Lucretius has in i. 473 *conflatus amore ignis*; and in i. 34 the equivalent statement *devictus vulnere amoris*.

The frequency of occurrence for individual writers varies somewhat with subject, with stylistic peculiarities, and with the sphere of the narrative. Lucretius uses in i. 72 the words *vivida vis animi pervicit*, and a modification of this statement can be taken to indicate the importance of *vis* either in particular cases or in the universe, as in i. 13, *perculsae corda tua vi*; i. 728, *multa munita virum vi*; i. 856, *aliqua vi victa*. For a specific activity see i. 528, *plagis extrinsecus icta*. The technical, largely unemotional, character of the contents and the directness of the statements gave little room for this use of the ablative with passive verbs. Contrasted with Lucretius in subject-matter is the work of Phaedrus. In the *Prologue* he refers as follows to possible critics:

Calumniari si quis autem voluerit,  
quod arbores loquantur, non tantum ferae:  
fictis iocari nos meminerit fabulis.

His animals are treated as persons: i. 9. 3, *oppressum ab aquila*; i. 4. 4, *ab altero* [sc. cane] *ferri putans*; i. 30. 4, *interrogata ab alia* [sc. rana]. In some places we have parts of the body endowed with efficient force: i. 1. 3, *fauce improba latro incitatus*; or some condition of the body is stated in the same way: i. 2. 2, *siti compulsi*; i. 8. 5, *magno dolore victus*. Some action on the part of persons is put for the persons themselves: i. 12. 7, *venantum subito vocibus contreritus*; i. 15. 5, *hostium clamore subito territus*; i. 12. 11, *lacerari . . . mor-sibus saevis canum*. Compare with these i. 1. 9, *repulsus ille veritatis viribus*.

In stories there is but a limited use of the ablative of the efficient. The dialogues as well as the soliloquies in Plautus are prevailingly set forth in the active voice. This is true whether we are given a disquisition by the philosophic old Philto or by the equally philosophic young Lysiteles (*Trinummus* 223-368); or whether it is Charmides describing a storm at sea, where each verb gives the dire and direct effect of some activity in nature (*ibid.* 820-42). If we take a longer story, as Catullus lxiv, we find that the occurrences of verbs in the passive are noticeably few, although the regular current of the active is broken a few times by one, as in line 35,

deseritur Cieros, linquunt Phthiotica tempe.

The *Georgics* of Vergil shows the same directness, and only occasionally is there a passive participle with the ablative, as in i. 180, *pulvere victa*; ii. 476, *ingenti percussus amore*; iii. 285, *capti . . . amore*; iv. 353, *o gemitu non frustra exterrita tanto*.

The intermingling of the active and the passive forms and the use of the passive participle in the formation of an adjective element are of frequent occurrence in historical compositions. It is the latter feature that furnishes the occasion for a free use of the ablative we are discussing. Had all statements in Latin been put into the active voice it would have been excluded. But Latin preferred the form "hither we, wind- and wave-driven, wander (Vergil *Aen.* i. 333, *erramus vento huc vastis et fluctibus acti*), to "we are driven and we wander"; and "necessity- and ignominy-led Libo departed from Brundisium" (Caesar *Bell. Civ.* iii. 24. 4, *necessitate et ignominia permotus Libo discessit a Brundisio*), to "necessity and ignominy led Libo and he departed from Brundisium." Some indications of this tendency will be given in the Latin historians. Lupus, *Sprachgebrauch des Cornelius Nepos*, page 65, gives about a dozen illustrations and adds that there are others with the participles *captus*, *coactus*, *permotus*, and *perterritus*. Heynacher gives, for Caesar's *Gallic War*, 222 as the number of the ablative *rei efficientis* with passive verbs. About three score of these are with *adductus*, *inductus*, and *permotus*. In contrast with Caesar, Tacitus has but few occurrences of these participles. In Livy there is about one occurrence of the "efficient" for each Teubner page—nearly two thousand in

all. In the description of some battle scenes there are but few examples, as in ii.11 the battle at Lake Regillus, xxii.4-6 at Lake Trasumene, and xxii.45-48 at Cannae. A few citations will show something of the frequency: i.1.2, *seditione pulsi*; i.3.9, *fulmine ictus*; i.7.5, *captus pulchritudine*; i.7.9, *concursu excitus*.

The normal sentence in Seneca is short, and the verb is usually in the active voice. We opened his *Epistles* at random and found in *Epp.* cvii.8: *Natura autem hoc, quod vides, regnum mutationibus temperat: nubilo serena succedunt. turbantur maria, cum quieverunt. flant in vicem venti. noctem dies sequitur. pars coeli consurgit, pars mergitur: contrariis rerum aeternitas constat.* This confirms the keen criticism of Caligula, *harena est sine calce* (Suetonius *Cal.* 53), and explains why the "efficient" is a negligible element in the style of Seneca.

The orations of Cicero are to be classed as vivid stories. *Ego feci* or *Catilina fecit* is the prevailing type of statement, and the *Epistles* appear the same. In his other works we have noted an occasional example, but the occurrences are comparatively fewer than they are in Livy.

The tendency on the part of the Roman to advance abstractions to the rank of divinities would, we feel, lead him to consider the "efficient" as the equal of the "agent." Livy has in i.3.9 *fulmine ictus*, and this, in some far-removed age, might have been considered as the instrument of Jove. But of this belief there was not left a trace in the age of Livy. At other times some manifestation of the gods is put for the gods themselves. This is stated without a preposition, but the result is the same as if the gods themselves had been operating. Illustrations of this are Vergil *Aen.* iii.4:

desertas quaerere terras  
auguriis agimur divum;

*ibid.* iii.372:

multo suspensum numine ducit.

Akin to these is *ibid.* iii.331:

scelerum furiis agitatus Orestes;

and *ibid.* iii.182:

nate, Iliacis exerceite fatis.



Winds and waves are per se too *tenues* and too widely extended to have a place on a limited stage, and it becomes necessary to personify or even to deify them, as in Vergil *Aen.* iii.533:

portus ab Euroo fluctu curvatus in arcum.

But compare with the wider sweep of the wind in *Georg.* iii.352:

gens effrena virum Rhipaeo tunditur euro.

There is the same potency in the unpersonified wind as there is in the personified wave, and it is the same with abstract qualities. Whether we read of *amor* or *Amor*, *cupido* or *Cupido*, the potency of the divinity must have existed in the previous abstraction, and it was only through recognition of this fact that personification was possible. Vergil *Georg.* iii.458 says of fever:

cum furit atque artus depascitur arida febris.

Judging by this, *febris* was a much more efficient actor than was *Febris* in the farce of Seneca (*Apocolocyntosis* vi).

Bearing these facts in mind there seems a justification in claiming for the ablative of the efficient a rank equal to that of the ablative of personal agent.

VANDERBILT UNIVERSITY